

For immediate release
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AGENCY IMPLEMENTS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) announced today that it has established an Environmental Management System (EMS) that complies with Executive Order 13148 "Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management." The Executive Order requires the USIBWC to implement an EMS to integrate environmental considerations into day-to-day decision making and other practices through systematic assembly of organizational elements, business processes, and technology tools, and to do so in a way that promotes their use by all employees in sustaining the continual improvement of the organization's environmental performance.

The USIBWC Environmental Policy provides for protection of natural, cultural, and historical resources; pollution prevention; compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements; continual improvement of environmental performance; and consideration of environmental factors in decision making.

The EMS also conforms to the International Organization for Standardization EMS standard ISO14001:2004 (American Society for Quality, 2005).

The USIBWC, with the assistance of its contractor, CDM, developed an EMS Implementation Report. The report includes measurable environmental goals, objectives, and targets necessary for the USIBWC to achieve compliance with the Executive Order. As part of this effort, the USIBWC will track such things as percentage of solid waste that is recycled, chemical usage per quantity of water treated, and percentage of materials purchased that are "green."

Progress in implementing the EMS will be posted on the USIBWC web site.

For more information:

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